

REMARKS

Claim 17 has been amended to more particularly define Applicants' invention. Support for the amendment to Claim 17 is found on page 13, lines 27 - 31. Claim 24 is cancelled herewith without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 17 - 21 and 24 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over GB 2,204,321 published in the name of Chavannes for the reasons of record stated on page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 21 and 24 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,350,457 issued to Kitazawa et al. for the reasons of record stated on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 21 and 24 - 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,199,567 issued to Kanno for the reasons of record stated on page 4 of the office Action.

These rejections as far as they apply to Claim 24, are now moot as Claim 24 has been cancelled herewith without prejudice.

It is believed that the amendment to Claim 17 overcomes the Examiner's rejections. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 be reconsidered and withdrawn and the claims allowed.

SUMMARY

This is responsive to the Office Action dated February 28, 2005. A one-month extension of time is requested to respond to this action. Authorization is provided to charge any fees associated with this response to Deposit Account No.: 16-2480. As the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 have been overcome, Applicants respectfully request these rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
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